

Observation Pipe Location – POWTS Component Manual Addendum

Effective Date – 09/01/2010

Since the advent of the POWTS component manuals there has been an ongoing debate over the observation pipe location requirements. Depending on what component manual is examined there is either no specific location requirement, a 1/6 of the length of the distribution cell location requirement, or a 1/5 to 1/10 of the length of the distribution cell location requirement. Adding complexity is the fact that new dispersal component products are being approved which include manufacturer specified observation pipe openings.

On May 11, 2010, The POWTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), recommended that the department modify the observation pipe location specifications listed in the POWTS Component Manuals to allow more installation flexibility. At least two observation pipes would continue to be required per dispersal cell, located at opposite ends of the cell where observation of ponding levels will be representative of a cell's hydraulic performance. All other related observation pipe specifications listed in the component manual tables would continue to apply.

The department reviewed the TAC recommendations and has prepared an addendum for each applicable department POWTS component manual that reflects the intent of the suggested changes. The department will also contact manufacturers that have approved proprietary component manuals and offer them the opportunity to submit similar addenda if they so desire.

The addenda to the department POWTS component manuals will become effective on 09/01/2010. Changes regarding observation pipe location to plans approved prior to the effective date of the addenda may be submitted to the county office where the state sanitary permit was issued and handled as a minor revision. [See s. Comm 83.22(4)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.]

In the coming months, the department will be reviewing and revising as needed several of the more commonly used component manuals. At that time the observation pipe location addenda will be incorporated into the specification tables of the manuals.

The addenda to be attached to the manuals and on-line approval letters will consist of the following performance-based text:

Observation pipes will be installed in each distribution cell so as to be representative of a cell's hydraulic performance.

Observation pipes must:

- *be located such that there are a minimum of two installed in each dispersal cell at opposite ends from one another*
- *be located near the dispersal cell ends*
- *be at least 6 inches from the end wall and sidewall*
- *be installed at an elevation to view the horizontal or level infiltrative surface within the dispersal cell*

Observation pipes may be located less than 6 inches from end walls or side walls if specified in state-approved manufacturers' installation instructions.